

Assessment
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

FHD-690

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

FREDERICK COUNTY COURTHOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Court Square

CITY, TOWN

Frederick

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Frederick

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

___DISTRICT

☒BUILDING(S)

___STRUCTURE

___SITE

___OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☒PUBLIC

___PRIVATE

___BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

___IN PROCESS

___BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒OCCUPIED

___UNOCCUPIED

___WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒YES: RESTRICTED

___YES: UNRESTRICTED

___NO

PRESENT USE

___AGRICULTURE

___MUSEUM

___COMMERCIAL

___PARK

___EDUCATIONAL

___PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___ENTERTAINMENT

___RELIGIOUS

☒GOVERNMENT

___SCIENTIFIC

___INDUSTRIAL

___TRANSPORTATION

___MILITARY

___OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Frederick County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

N. Court Street

CITY, TOWN

Frederick, Maryland

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___FEDERAL ___STATE ___COUNTY ___LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION | | CHECK ONE | CHECK ONE |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS | <input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED | | DATE _____ |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Courthouse is a rectangular 2-1/2 story brick building, eleven bays wide and nine bays in depth, facing East. The building sets on a high basement and front and side walls are accented by gabled pavilions, 1/2 bay in depth and approximately three bays wide. The rear wall has the center bays recessed.

Light red pressed brick is laid in common bond based on a cut fieldstone foundation and rockfaced granite watertable rising to between six and eight feet. All facades are buttressed by wide brick piers rising at the corners and between the windows.

The tall, wide, front entranceway is entered by wide double doors of glass over panels with a four pane overlight and sidelights over panels, framed by plain pilasters. All glass is protected by heavy cast iron grills in a geometric pattern. Above the overlight is a second overlight of four taller panes. Capping the whole is a heavy projecting cornice supported by large fluted Victor-brackets and trimmed by a row of dentils. The entrance is approached by granite steps with granite sidewalls, round moulded on the front.

Windows, taller on the first floor, are of 6/6 panes headed by segmental brick arches with drip moulds and brick "keystones." These rest on stone sills and center windows on the south side are joined by wood paneling between the first and second floors. The only exceptions to the above are round arched, two narrow, flat, arched windows and a round lunette louvered aperture above the entrance. Low cellar windows on each side are protected by heavy grills similar to the entrance but more rounded.

A projecting wooden cornice surrounds the structure, also capping the three pavilions, is supported by paired fluted brackets and decorated by a band of dentils. Heading each facade between the piers are decorative brick pendants.

The low sloped pyramidal roof is joined on three sides by the "A" frame sections extending back from the pediments of the three pavillions and is slate covered. There are nine chimneys and copper flashing is used. Tall cast iron rainspout collars decorated by key designs rise on each side of the building.

Centered on the roof is the landmark, massive square cupola, a full story in height and approximately eighteen (18) feet to the ceiling and lighted by tall, round arched apertures surrounded by plain, flat architrave with "keystones" and "shoulders." At the bases of these are ornate cut banisters repeating the design of the cellar grills. The deep, overhanging, moulded cornice is supported by plain pilasters with moulded brackets at the top and the base. This cupola is capped by a metal ogee shaped turret topped by a gold-leaved weathervane and decorative globes. The original courthouse bronze bell in the cupola inscribed "Meneely's (bell foundry) West Troy, Ny. 1863"; is 32" wide at the base; and is suspended by a "Meneely's Rotating Yoke." This bell is either rung from the attic by an attached rope or clapper in the cupola.

This building sets on the western edge of Courthouse Park and features attractive foundation plantings.

This mid-city park is a tree-shaded oasis with lawns, benches, the original fountain of 1888 (Fabricated in York, Pa. for \$250.00 and displaying "Putti" figurines of bronze); busts of Roger Brooke Taney and Maryland's first governor, Thomas Johnson; a tablet of the Ten Commandments; memorial tablet of all local military men of WWII, and newly installed antique design pole lamps.

See MAT slide 533 28

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

F4D-690

| PERIOD | | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LAW | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) | |

1862-Stone plaque on front pavillion

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This structure is the third courthouse on Courthouse Square and the second on this site. The first building of logs nearby was erected in 1750. The second brick courthouse of colonial styling was erected in 1785 by local architect, Henry or Andrew McCleery. The cupola was destroyed by a neighborhood fire in 1842 and the entire building destroyed by another fire in 1862, prior to the Civil War. The present building was considered to be one of the first fire proof buildings and has a dirt floor in the attic.

Former historical events include: 1) Repudiation of the British Stamp Act in 1765; 2) Execution of Tories in 1781; and 3) many sessions of oratory.

Courthouse Park has been the scene of many patriotic celebrations over the years.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

DOUGLAS M. GREENE
ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN
HISTORICAL DISTRICT COMMISSION
CITY of FREDERICK, MD. 21701

ORGANIZATION

DATE

JUNE 1978

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438